

# RED TAIL FLYER

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Balad Air Base, Iraq



**Command Post helps provide  
airfield authority in Iraq**

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present mission**

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# c o n t e n t s

**JANUARY 5, 2007**



## **Combat Airpower for America is ...**

Precision weapons & sensors employment
Combat search and rescue
Precision air delivery of personnel & cargo
Command & control of tactical air battlespace
<b>Senior airfield authority operating key airfields</b>
Combat support and battlefield Airmen
Critical medical care for battlefield injuries

## **4 Command Post helps provide airfield authority in Iraq**

The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Command Post, in conjunction with the Army's Joint Defense Operations Center, is responsible for distributing information about incoming attacks as quick as possible.

## **In every issue**

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## **RED TAIL FLYER**

**Brig. Gen. Robin Rand**  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Commander

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332.redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil or 332aew.pa@blab.centaf.af.mil.

The crimson used throughout the publication alludes to the original Tuskegee Airmen of the 332nd Fighter Group.

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African-Americans to be trained as WWII military pilots in the U.S. Army Air Corps. They were known as the Red Tail Flyers because of the crimson paint scheme on their aircraft's tails.



Photo by Senior Airman Josh Moshier

*COVER PHOTO: Staff Sgt. Marco Nario, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Command Post controller, communicates with an aircraft while performing flight following responsibilities.*



# Balad Highlights



**Brig. Gen. Robin Rand**  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing  
commander

## COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

The Commander's Action Line is a way for Balad Air Base members to ask questions or express concerns about life on the base to Brig. Gen. Robin Rand, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander.

General Rand gives action line queries his personal attention. The *Red Tail Flyer* will publish items that are of general interest to the base population.

In addition to using the commander's action line, Balad Airmen are asked to remember their chain of command when dealing with problems and concerns.

To reach the action line, send an e-mail to 332.  
[redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil).

To use the action line, include your name, unit and phone number for a timely response in case additional information is needed.



T U S K E G E E   A I R M A N   O F   T H E   W E E K



### SENIOR AIRMAN TYLER BROWN

**Unit:** 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

**Air Force specialty:** Aircraft Armament Systems Technician

**Home station:** Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.

**Family:** Mother and father

**Years in the Air Force:** 2.5

**Deployments:** 1

**On-duty contribution at Balad:** Airman Brown is a versatile weapons loader and system maintainer. His daily actions directly contributed to a 100 percent gun fire and weapons release rate, which provides lethal air support for ground forces. A rock solid technician, he cleared a stores management system malfunction during an aircraft launch; his quick actions ensured aircraft availability for a combat sortie.

**Off-duty contribution at Balad:** An involved Airman, he devoted off-duty time to assemble furniture in the newly constructed "X-POD," aiding in the bed-down and improved living conditions for Airmen. He's also an active member of the undefeated 332nd EAMXS basketball team, increasing unit pride and enhancing relations with other branches of service.

## Weather outlook

**Today**



Mostly Cloudy,  
Iso. Rain

**55/27**

**Saturday**



Partly Cloudy,  
Windy

**50/32**

**Sunday**



Partly Cloudy,  
Rain

**54/30**

**Monday**



Partly Cloudy,  
Hazy

**54/34**

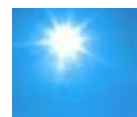
**Tuesday**



Sunny

**55/35**

**Wednesday**



Sunny,  
Hazy

**54/34**

**Thursday**



Sunny,  
Hazy

**54/33**

# Command Post helps provide airfield authority in Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Francesca Popp  
U.S. Central Command Air Forces News Team

Airmen sit down to eat dinner at one of the dining facilities here, discussing what each plans to do later that night. Suddenly, they hear, "Incoming! Incoming! Incoming! Take cover immediately." They and others in the DFAC immediately dive for cover under tables.

People living and working at Balad are accustomed to hearing these words when the base receives rocket and mortar attacks.

It's the responsibility of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

Command Post, in conjunction with the Army's Joint Defense Operations Center, to distribute information about incoming attacks as quickly as possible.

"We respond to any type of action, emergency or attack which are frequent here — daily almost," said Master Sgt. Bill Hayward, 332nd AEW Command Post senior controller. "We then go ahead and call the alarm condition, based on how many rockets or mortars are shot at us."

The command post team then generates checklists to ensure base members are aware of what's going on, they take cover and

keep their head down until the all clear is given.

Lt. Col. Kim Olson, 332nd AEW Command Post officer in charge, said the JDOC receives the initial notification of an incoming attack, passes the information on to the wing command post, which broadcasts that information to the rest of the base.

"When they (the JDOC staff) get one, they'll let us know about the strike or 'incoming' and then we take care of the base populace as far as ensuring people do what they're supposed to do. We work hand-in-hand with them on base defense," Colonel Olson said, noting that base defense is, in fact, the JDOC's main focus. "They have the technology and analysis to better determine what alarm condition we should be in and what we can do to better respond."

The colonel added that, outside of incoming attack notification, JDOC doesn't work any of the command post's other functions to aid the wing commander in providing senior airfield authority in Iraq. Those functions include, among other things, information gathering for the commander and tracking aircraft, or flight following.

"The command post is the nerve center of the base," said Senior Airman David G. Fermer, command post controller. "All information flows from and into us."

The nine-member command post team uses the Giant Voice public address system, land mobile radio and the secured and unsecured Internet systems to alert base members. The 332nd AEW Command Post staff works 12-hour shifts, 24/7, ensuring information is relayed to the Air Force contingent at Balad.

The staff receives information from many sources, compiles it and summarizes it into a brief

statement. It is then given to wing leaders so an informed decision can be made.

"Anytime there is interaction between several agencies, all the data flows to the command center first for analysis, and then we will turn that information around and shoot it out to the appropriate agency to respond," said Sergeant Hayward, who is deployed from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

Besides information-gathering, the colonel said their other priority is airlift. The command post has dedicated controllers to follow flights. If an aircraft is coming into the theater, the command post can track it in and out of the area.

Airman Fermer, who is deployed from the 92nd Air Refueling Wing at Fairchild AFB, Wash., is one of the controllers dedicated to tracking those aircraft. He updates the transient flying schedule and coordinates ground activities so when an aircraft arrives, it can spend the least amount of time on the ground as possible.

"This allows us to have more aircraft on the ground in a day, ultimately allowing us to move more cargo and personnel in and out of (Iraq)," said the 21-year-old senior airman.

According to the colonel, Balad is the military airlift hub in Iraq.

"It's important to keep in-theater airlift moving, because it helps save lives," said Colonel Olson, who is also deployed from Elmendorf. "One of the highest-risk jobs over here is being on a convoy. However, the more we can move by air, the fewer convoys we have out on the road. Therefore, we're not putting as many people in harm's way."

The command post staff calls the all clear. People in the DFAC slowly emerge from underneath the tables, continue their conversations and eating.



Photo by Senior Airman Josh Moshier

*Tech. Sgt. La Sharne Moore, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Command Post, runs through a checklist while broadcasting a transmission over the emergency network.*

# Red Tail Chief reinforces standards

By Command Chief Master Sgt. Scott Dearduff  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief master sergeant

I was thinking just the other day: why do we even have standards in the Air Force? For a brief moment I thought, maybe we need to get rid of all standards and just get wild and start letting people do their own thing.

I thought we could drop all the dress and appearance, customs and courtesies, let people show up when they wanted to and just treat people like adults.

Then a brick hit me in the forehead and I woke up. What was I thinking? Get rid of standards?

Do I want Soldiers and Marines to die because we don't have standards? Of course not. Do I want people to take unnecessary risks because they don't trust the people who worked on their jets or their weapons? Do I want wounded warriors to lie on operating room tables and have undisciplined surgeons hack away at their limbs? Well, of course not.

Who would want any of that stuff? Who would want a lack of standards and have to be in charge of an organization like that? Any takers? The line is forming, and I don't expect it to be very long.

Should you choose to stand in line and take on the leadership role of a unit like that, be advised that your forehead is about to be knotted by a little thing called reality!

That's right. Without standards, you are doomed to fail as an organization no matter how small or large the unit is.

Imagine, if you will, our wing attempting to provide Combat Airpower for America Right Here, Right Now, with 7,000 Airmen doing their own thing at more than 40 locations around Iraq – dressing as they choose and showing up for work when they want.

You and I both know such a thing is just not going to be successful. So let's forget about setting aside standards, and just get with the program.

If you are that person who walks around and maintains the bare minimum in the areas previously mentioned, if you are the one who always needs a haircut, or whose uniform has not been cleaned in weeks, skips the hand-washing station in the dining facility, or just plain does not follow standards, be advised ... we cannot trust you, and we do not need you. It may be time for you to move on to greener pastures.

The people we are looking for are Airmen who are squared away and can be trusted with life critical missions.

We want Airmen who self-impose the Air Force and 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing community standards without having to be told to tuck or remove.

We are looking for Airmen who can proudly wear the Air Force Honor Guard patch, "To Honor with Dignity," worn only by the sharpest of Airmen. We are looking for you; we just hope that you are on board and uphold the standards that have been established for you.

For 60 years of Air Force heritage and for many years before in the Army Air Corps, these standards have been implemented so that you can serve honorably, complete a difficult mission in a tough expeditionary environment, and go home to your friends and family as a combat veteran who has served honorably.

You want wingmen who maintain standards and comply with all things related to good order and discipline. I venture to say that the person sitting next to you wants the same. Let's try and help them out.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Cox

## Dining-In the desert

(Above) The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing's newest chiefs, Chief Master Sgt.-select Randy Wood (left), 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Vallely, 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, prepare to drink from the dreaded "grog" bowl during the wing Dining-In Dec. 28.

(Right) Lieutenant Gen. Gary North, United States Central Command Air Forces commander, speaks at the Dining-In.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Chad Kellum



# Honor Guard helps lay President Ford to rest

By Staff Sgt. Madelyn Waychoff  
Air Force Honor Guard Public Affairs

**WASHINGTON** – Many Airmen work day in and day out to carry out the mission they've been trained to do. For members of the Air Force Honor Guard here at Bolling Air Force Base, this was the day.

These honor guardsmen helped the nation pay its final respects to President Gerald Ford. The 38th U.S. president was honored with a funeral service at the National Cathedral here Jan. 2. Services will continue at the Ford presidential museum in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The role of the honor guard began as soon as the news of President Ford's death was announced. The guard maintains a 24-person state funeral flyaway team, which is always on standby. They deploy wherever needed when notified a president or senior statesman has died.

In the case of President Ford, the Airmen were sent to California the morning of Dec. 27 to assist the other services with the

transfer of President Ford's body to the church in Palm Desert, Calif. While his body lay in state, Airmen and other servicemembers served as a Guard of Honor, maintaining a vigil at all times.

The flyaway team also assisted with the airfield transfer to the VC-25 aircraft, and then redeployed to Michigan to await the arrival of the body at the presidential museum.

In Washington, more than 80 Airmen of the 250 assigned to the Honor Guard were involved in the funeral as well as the 24-member flyaway team. Two Airmen served as pallbearers for the president.

Other guardsmen formed cordons through which the former president was carried, stood in formation outside the Capitol, held vigil over the president's body and carried the flag, along with Navy, Marines, Army and Coast Guard members.

"This is what we train for," said Senior Master Sgt. Andre Karr, acting director of Honor Guard operations. "We train with the other services every quarter, and



Photo by Airman 1st Class Marleah Miller

*A funeral procession for President Gerald R. Ford departs the U.S. Capitol in route to the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., for a memorial service Tuesday. The president's final resting place will be in his hometown of Grand Rapids, Mich., at a site just north of the Gerald R. Ford Museum.*

even when we are in the middle of executing a funeral, we are still training.

"This is the epitome of what

being in the honor guard is, the height of any ceremonial guardsman's career. It is an honor just to be a part of it."

# Airmen build future with present mission

Story and photo by Army Pfc. William Hatton  
Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs

**CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq** – Many things go into constructing buildings in which servicemembers live and work while serving in Iraq.

For offices, dining facilities and dormitories to become a reality, someone had to draw plans, order supplies and construct them. That responsibility falls on Airmen from the 1st Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Directly behind the Multi-National Division – Baghdad headquarters building here, Airmen are building four small offices so that other servicemembers can expand and further complete the mission at hand, said Senior Airman Luis Villarreal, a civil engineer from the 1st SOCES.

"Being out here and having the opportunity

to apply what I've trained for is something that I enjoy," said the Dallas native.

Applying what he learned at technical school makes the Iraq tour enjoyable, said Airman Nick Soracco, a civil engineer with the 1st SOCES. Being with friends makes the job even better.

"We're all close out here," Airman Soracco said. "We spend a lot of hours together working, and with that comes a lot of camaraderie."

The four new offices will become an operations center for SOCES when conducting routine base maintenance such as fixing broken doors and windows.

"It's our chance to really learn what we're meant to do. It's also nice because we get the opportunity to get our hands dirty," he added.

When any building is finished, the feeling of having accomplished the project is exhilarating, Airman Villarreal said.



*Airmen Benjamin Rasine and Nick Soracco measure out lengths for an office building being built at Camp Liberty in Iraq Dec. 28.*

"You really get a sense of what you've done when you come out to a site like this that is just dirt, and when you finish there are offices so people can complete their mission," Airman Villarreal said.

"Once our mission is complete, it's time to pack up, move out and start building another building that's needed," said Airman Soracco.

# Physical therapy comes to front line

Story and photo by  
**Army Spc. Joshua R. Ford**  
3rd BCT, 82nd Airborne Division PAO

## CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

**SPEICHER, Iraq** — Day in and day out, troops patrol the streets and countryside of Iraq for hours at a time, many carrying up to 100 pounds of gear. Over time, this excessive wear on the troops may lead to back or other injuries later on in life.

Fortunately, physical therapy teams are now permanent and integrated into each brigade combat team in the Army.

Capt. Andrew Contreras, brigade physical therapist, and Staff Sgt. Melinda Sanders, physical therapy noncommissioned officer, both with Company C, 82nd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd BCT, 82nd Airborne Division, make up the first brigade physical therapy team in the 82nd Abn. Div.

The two keep busy, constantly traveling to and from outlying forward operating bases throughout 3rd BCT's area of operation in Salah ad Din Province.

Captain Contreras and Sergeant Sanders have treated over 1,500 patients – not including the Iraqis they have treated – since they first deployed in August.

Every time the team goes to outlying FOBs, it not only fulfills its obligation to fellow paratroopers, it also treats Iraqi patients and teaches them different exercises they can do to help heal their injuries. This has made it convenient for all of their patients, said the captain.

"It is a lot easier for us to move around than it is to move people to see me," said Captain Contreras. "So rather than me sit on Speicher, it's easier to jump on a convoy or catch a flight."



*Army Capt. Andrew Contreras, physical therapist, Company C 82nd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, treats the ankle of Army Spc. Patrick Wagner, infantryman, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd BCT, Dec. 29 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher.*

The team has prevented the battalions from losing manpower when one of their paratroopers needs treatment.

"If a guy has to come to Speicher, that's one day shot, and battalions don't have the manpower for people to be gone for two or three days," said the captain.

The team spends around 20 days a month traveling. They provide relief to their patients by cracking necks, adjusting backs and putting bodies back into alignment. The treatment allows patients to function in spite of the uncomfortable gear, according to the physical therapy team.

Since the team has been reaching out to paratroopers, complaints about the body armor have been minimal, said Maj. Christian Meko, brigade

surgeon for the 3rd BCT.

"The most common injuries we see are back problems because of all the equipment we're wearing, the amount of time people are working, and the guys' living conditions [sleeping on cots]," said Captain Contreras.

Other routine injuries include ankle and knee problems caused by walking or running on uneven terrain and mounting and dismounting vehicles, and conducting night operations where vision is limited, according to the team.

So far, the physical therapy duo has treated 10 to 15 paratroopers who suffered from small arms-fire wounds and has kept them all in-country; whereas before, they would have to go to Germany for treatment.

The Army's traveling

physical therapy teams have been a fantastic addition to the brigades, said Major Meko. When paratroopers are injured, the medical team gets them back to the fight quicker.

"A lot of guys have been able to be treated here instead of having to be sent home, keeping combat strength in the battalions higher," said the major.

"Before we got to the brigade, it would take guys eight to nine weeks to get back to duty, but with us here, most patients are back to duty in three weeks," said Captain Contreras.

Sergeant Sanders and the captain said they will continue to travel to the outlying bases to provide their convenient services to 82nd Abn. Div. paratroopers, who have a renowned history of being fit and combat-ready.



# Wing releases fitness assessment policy

**By Senior Airman Josh Moshier**  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Much has been made of the Air Force's re-emphasis on physical fitness in recent years, and from day one, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing's current leadership has enthusiastically followed suit.

Recent policy letters signed by Brig. Gen. Robin Rand, 332nd AEW commander, ensure Tuskegee Airmen may continue to monitor their physical fitness while deployed here.

A recent update to Air Force Instruction 10-248, *Fitness Program*, authorizes deployed commanders to perform fitness

assessments at deployed locations. The changes were welcomed with open arms by the general.

"This is a great opportunity for Tuskegee Airmen to return to their home stations healthier, more mission-ready and with higher documented scores than when they arrived," he said.

In response to the AFI update, General Rand has mandated all group commanders to appoint a fitness program manager and physical training leaders responsible to the 332nd AEW unit fitness program manager, 1st Lt. Jamie Fanning. Geographically-separated units are charged to ensure AFI requirements are met to administer

the 1.5-mile official fitness assessment run. Body composition assessment procedures will be conducted in accordance with AFI 10-248, and all assessments will be conducted with CPR-qualified personnel present.

"I expect commanders to support, encourage and motivate a healthy lifestyle," General Rand said. "They will identify, place in a commander's fitness improvement program and ensure mock fitness assessments are conducted on all Airmen arriving at 332nd AEW locations with scores of below 75."

Airmen on 120-day or longer deployments will be given a mock test within six weeks of arriving

to the area of responsibility, and a retest will be conducted within one month of departing the AOR. Mock test results will be conducted in accordance with AFI 10-248 and will be used to gauge compliance with standards, the general said.

Prior to testing Airmen, the UFPM and PTLs are charged with providing a fitness questionnaire to personnel to determine if Airmen are ready to test or need medical clearance. A fitness assessment preparation handout will be distributed as well.

For the 1.5-mile run portion of the PFT, the running track at Holt Stadium and the metered segment of David Letterman Road are certified as official routes. As of now, the cycle ergometry test is not available for individuals on a running profile.

The bottom line for Tuskegee Airmen is they will be tested on their physical fitness while deployed here. Test results will not be entered into the official Air Force Fitness Management System unless all AFI testing requirements have been met and the individual Airman volunteers to have his score posted.

"The demands of our mission require warriors who are fit to fight," General Rand said. "I encourage all of our Tuskegee Airmen to take advantage of this new fitness assessment opportunity."

For more information on the 332nd AEW fitness program, call Lieutenant Fanning at 443-6533.



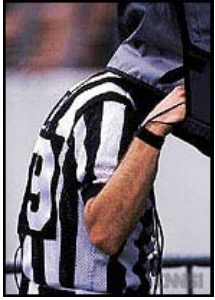
Photo by Airman 1st Class Chad Kellum

Members of the 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron perform group push-ups in September as part of the squadron's quest to complete 332,000 push-ups. Based on updates to Air Force Instruction 10-248, *Fitness Program*, deployed commanders now have the authority to perform fitness assessments.

## Red Tail Fitness Center weekly fitness schedule

Friday	Saturday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Jan. 12
Spin – 3:30 p.m. Step-n-Tone – 8 p.m.	Step-n-Tone – 7 a.m. Aikijujutsu – 8:30 p.m.	Spin – 8 a.m., 3:30 p.m. Cardio Funk – 8 p.m. Aikijujutsu – 9 p.m.	Cardio Funk – 7 a.m. Spin – 3:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. Karate Do – 7 p.m.	Spin – 3:30 p.m. Legs and Glutes – 7 p.m. Cardio Funk – 8 p.m.	Spin – 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 3:30 p.m. Karate Do – 7 p.m. Aikijujutsu – 8:30 p.m.	Spin – 3:30 p.m. Step-n-Tone – 8 p.m.





# UPON FURTHER REVIEW

*(Editor's note: Upon Further Review is a weekly column in which Senior Airman Josh Moshier and Master Sgt. Kirk Clear of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Office debate their views on hot sports topics, games and items of interest. They rarely agree on sports, and when they do, you won't see it here.)*

## The Clear View: Gators poised to pull off upset

College football fans have been eagerly awaiting the national championship game between the Ohio State Buckeyes (12-0) and the Florida Gators (12-1), Jan. 8.

You'll have to get up early Tuesday morning if you want to watch the game; it begins at 4:30 a.m. local here in Iraq. But if you want to sleep in, that's all right; I'll tell you what's going to happen.

Florida will win in this first-ever match-up between these long-time powerful programs. While it is more than a seven-point underdog, it has the key ingredients needed to win – defense and speed.

Experts say, "defense wins titles." The Gators have the sixth best run defense in the nation. They only allow an average of 75 yards per game on the ground.

They should be able to stop Buckeye running back Antonio Pittman, thus putting all the pressure on Heisman trophy winner, quarterback Troy Smith. Historically, Heisman winners do not fare well in championship

games. In the last 52 years, only four winners have gone on to win the title in the same season.

Besides its run defense, Florida boasts what may be the best, and fastest, pair of defensive backs in the nation with safety Reggie Nelson and corner Ryan Smith. The pressure will be too much for Smith, who will not have played a game in 51 days!

Florida has this great defense that only allowed 13.5 points per game despite the fact that head coach Urban Meyer is known as an offensive guru. All this spells trouble for the Buckeyes.

Meyer's defense is rested and ready to go, while he has had 37 days to develop an offensive scheme. I look for a big day from senior quarterback and all-time UF pass leader Chris Leak to bring the BCS trophy back to Gainesville.

Finally, Florida has faced nine winning teams this year, while Ohio State only played five, with Michigan being the only one since September.

## Mo Knows: Florida doesn't stand a chance

I know how difficult it is for you old guys to let go of history, so I'll take it relatively easy on you this week.

You're absolutely convinced Florida is the stronger, faster, more talented team and it's underrated because of a loss it took in the Southeastern Conference – perceived to be the toughest in football.

Just because the SEC has been the nation's toughest conference most often in the recent past doesn't mean it's the toughest in the nation today. But, even if it, you still shouldn't overvalue the strength of its champion. Southern California has been arguably the best team in college football over the past five years, and it plays in that joke of a conference we call the Pacific 10.

Florida is one of three teams that had a legitimate argument for having a spot opposite the Buckeyes in Monday's game. That said, Ohio State is the only team no one argued about, and for good reason.

Troy Smith is head-and-shoulders the most talented player

in the college game. He's perhaps the only player in the country who can single-handedly decide the outcome of a game. Much like Vince Young last year, there is no answer for Smith – you must simply take everything he throws at you and hope you can match it.

We can throw stats back and forth until we're blue in the face. The bottom line is, unless Florida has some magic formula no one else has been able to figure out, it's not going to stop Troy Smith.

Your second mistake is banking on history. History is great, but your point about only four of the past 52 Heisman Trophy-winners going on to win the national title is nothing more than an interesting bit of trivia. The success, or lack thereof, of Ricky Williams' Texas Longhorns, Ron Dayne's Wisconsin Badgers and 48 other teams has no impact on Smith's Buckeyes. This is a different team in a different season. History doesn't win or lose football games – football teams and players do.

Come Monday night, Ohio State and Smith are going to win a second national title in four years.

*Now it's up to you, Tuskegee Airmen. Who's right? You decide. Sound off on the RTF's self-proclaimed sports gurus, or suggest a topic for discussion in a future column, in an e-mail to [332.redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:332.redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil).*



## Condensed sports schedule

### NFL

Sunday, AFN Sports, 12:30 a.m.  
Kansas City at Indianapolis

Sunday, AFN Sports, 4 a.m.  
Dallas at Seattle

Sunday, AFN Sports, 9 p.m.  
N.Y. Jets at New England

Monday, AFN Sports, 12:30 a.m.  
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia

### NBA

Saturday, AFN Sports, 4 a.m.  
Dallas at San Antonio

Saturday, AFN Sports, 6:30 a.m.  
Miami at Phoenix

Sunday, AFN Xtra, 6:30 a.m.  
Seattle at Golden State

Sunday, AFN Xtra, 1 p.m.  
Detroit at Chicago

### NHL

Saturday, AFN Xtra, 3:30 a.m.  
Phoenix at Atlanta

Saturday, AFN Prime, 5 a.m.  
Tampa Bay at Colorado

Saturday, AFN Xtra, 6 a.m.  
Columbus at Anaheim

Sunday, AFN Xtra, 4 a.m.  
Colorado at Minnesota

### NCAA FOOTBALL

Tuesday, AFN Sports, 4 a.m.  
Florida vs. Ohio State (Nat'l Champ. Game)

Tuesday, AFN Sports, 3 and 9 p.m.  
Florida vs. Ohio State (Tape delayed)

Schedule is subject to change. For a complete list of all AFN programming, visit <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>.

# Chapel Happenings

## God's light shines brightest in the darkest places

**By Chaplain (Maj.) Nelson Arroyo**  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing  
Air Force Theater Hospital chaplain

It was Christmas Eve when the nurse stopped by the chapel to secure my services.

"Chaplain, an Iraqi soldier is dying in the intensive care unit," the nurse said.

The soldier had a Muslim name, indicating that he shared the faith of 92 percent of his countrymen. The Iraqi Arabic translator, who is also a Muslim, was awaiting my arrival before he would administer the Islamic prayers for the dying.

Over the past several months, I have befriended this particular translator, and we have helped educate one another on our respective cultures and faiths. Even though he knows I am a Christian, he expects my presence and my prayers on such occasions because I am a chaplain.

His stated conviction is: "Two prayers are clearly better than one!"

I stood beside the unconscious,

approximately 30-year-old patient and the translator. There I prayed silently in my heart while the translator prayed out loud in Arabic. Once he finished, I began to pray out loud for the soldier, for his loved ones and for his nation that he was dying for. When I finished, the translator prayed the word "Amen," which means "so be it."

We have prayed together at the bedside of too many men, women and children. This time something was different.

We were not alone with the patient. At the foot of the bed sat a U.S. soldier with his hand on the patient's blanket-covered foot. At each side of the bed were two additional U.S. soldiers holding onto the patient's hands. The soldiers had decided to spend that Christmas Eve accompanying an Iraqi soldier whom they did not even know as he agonized through the portals of death. They were determined that he would not die alone.

So they persevered beside him

into Christmas morning when he passed away. Ordinary U.S. soldiers gave an extraordinary Christmas gift because they cared enough to love a stranger – an Iraqi soldier who gave the ultimate sacrifice, which was another gift.

The news concerning Iraq may

seem quite dark and grim. Yet, sacred gifts of love are given daily in this land. Those gifts reflect the light of God's kind of love.

So open your eyes and take note that God's light indeed shines brightest in the darkest places!



Photo by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jeffrey Neuberger



## Balad Religious Schedule

### Catholic Services

#### Daily Mass

5 p.m. Monday through Friday

Tuskegee Chapel

#### Saturday

4:30 p.m. Reconciliation

Tuskegee Chapel

5 p.m. Mass

Tuskegee Chapel

#### Sunday

9 a.m. Sunday Mass

Tuskegee Chapel

11 a.m. Sunday Mass

AFT Hospital Chapel

Confessions available by appointment

### Protestant Services

#### Sunday

9:30 a.m. Traditional Service

AFT Hospital Chapel

10 a.m. Contemporary Service

Town Hall

11 a.m. Liturgical Service (Episcopal)

Tuskegee Chapel

2 p.m. Church of Christ

Tuskegee Chapel

2 p.m. Gospel Service

AFT Hospital Chapel

3:30 p.m. Gospel Service

Tuskegee Chapel

5:30 p.m. Traditional Service

Tuskegee Chapel

8:15 p.m. Traditional Service

AFT Hospital Chapel

#### Wednesday

8 p.m. Midweek Contemporary Worship Service

Tuskegee Chapel

### Other Services

#### Sunday

3:30 p.m. Orthodox Prayer Service

Tuskegee Chapel Office

7 p.m. Latter Day Saints Sacraments

Tuskegee Chapel

8 p.m. Latter Day Saints Sunday School

Tuskegee Chapel

#### Friday

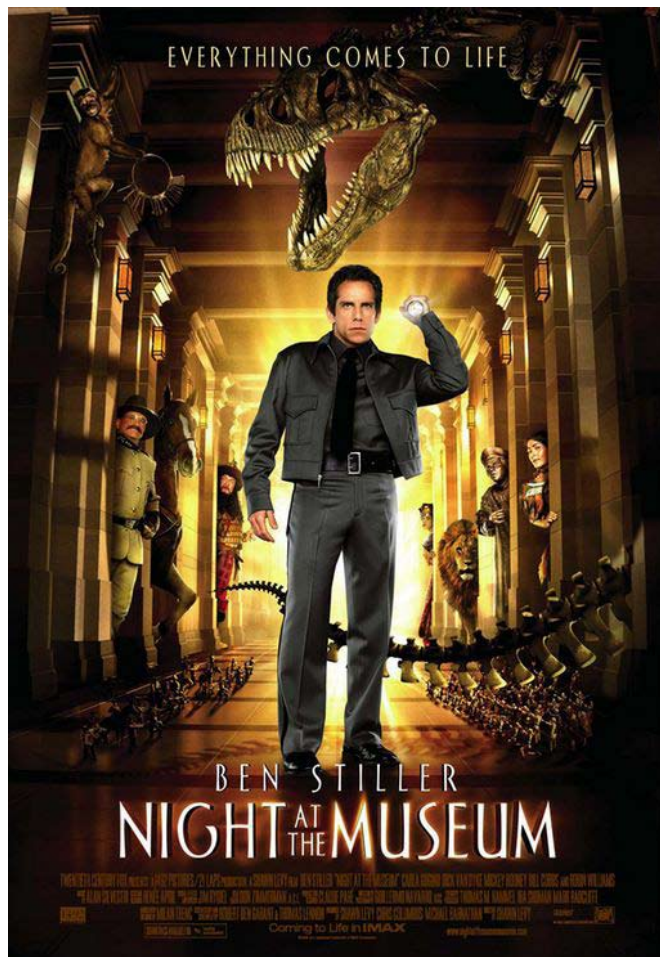
7 p.m. Friday Shabbat Service

Tuskegee Chapel Office

For more information on worship opportunities or needs, call 443-7703.

For the after-hour duty chaplain, call 443-3320.





## Today

- 2 p.m. — The Santa Clause 3
- 5 p.m. — Night at the Museum
- 8:30 p.m. — Casino Royale

## Saturday

- 2 p.m. — The Prestige
- 5 p.m. — Flags of our Fathers
- 8 p.m. — Night at the Museum

## Sunday

- 2 p.m. — Night at the Museum
- 5 p.m. — Casino Royale
- 8 p.m. — Saw III

## Monday

- 5 p.m. — The Grudge 2
- 8 p.m. — Flags of our Fathers

## Tuesday

- 5 p.m. — Night at the Museum
- 8 p.m. — Casino Royale

## Wednesday

- 5 p.m. — Flags of our Fathers
- 8 p.m. — Night at the Museum

## Thursday

- 5 p.m. — Casino Royale
- 8 p.m. — The Santa Clause 3

## Jan. 12

- 2 p.m. — Flushed Away
- 5 p.m. — Flags of our Fathers
- 8:30 p.m. — Borat

## Casino Royale

*Daniel Craig, Judi Dench*

James Bond's mission takes him to Madagascar, where he is to spy on a terrorist. Not everything goes as planned and Bond decides to investigate, independent of the MI6 agency, in order to track down the terrorist cell. On a lead to the Bahamas, he encounters Dimitrios and his girlfriend, Solange. He learns Dimitrios is involved with Le Chiffre, banker to the world's terrorist organizations. Rated PG-13 (violent action, sexual content, nudity) 144 minutes

## The Santa Clause 3

*Tim Allen, Elizabeth Mitchell*

It's Christmas time once again, and Scott Calvin juggles a full house of family and the mischievous Jack Frost, who is trying to take over the "big guy's" holiday. At the risk of giving away the secret location of the North Pole, Scott invites his in-laws and extended family to share in the holiday festivities and upcoming birth of baby Claus. Rated G 98 minutes

## Night at the Museum

*Ben Stiller, Carla Gugino*

A good-hearted dreamer accepts what appears to be a menial job as a graveyard-shift security guard at a museum of natural history. During his watch, extraordinary things begin to occur: Mayans, Roman gladiators and cowboys emerge from their diorama to wage epic battles. Amidst the chaos, he turns for advice to a wax figure of President Teddy Roosevelt, who helps him harness the bedlam, stop a nefarious plot and save the museum. Rated PG (mild action, rude humor) 109 minutes

## Flags of our Fathers

*Ryan Phillippe, Adam Beach*

Even as victory in Europe was finally within reach, the war in the Pacific raged on in February 1945. The struggle for the island of Iwo Jima culminated with one of the most iconic images in history: five Marines and a Navy corpsman raising the American flag on Mount Suribachi. Rated R (war violence, language) 132 minutes

Synopsis courtesy [www.AAFES.com](http://www.AAFES.com)  
Show times courtesy 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron